



CPHS Oversight Board

Online Meeting Minutes

May 25, 2023

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Cooperative Public Health Service
Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Member Attendance:

Ashfield	Caroline White, Lynn Dole	Hawley-	absent
Bernardston-	absent	Heath-	Susan Gruen
Buckland-	Carmela Lanza-Weil	Leyden-	Beth Kuzdeba
Charlemont-	Doug Telling	Monroe-	absent
Colrain-	absent	Northfield-	Karen Boudreau
Conway-	Kat Llamas, Jackie Choate	Rowe	absent
Erving-	absent	Shelburne-	Fritz Vohr
Gill-	Jeff Blomstedt, Charles Garbiel		

Staff Attendance: Randy Crochier, Liz Jacobson-Carroll, Maureen O'Reilly, Meg Ryan, Kurt Schellenberg, Phoebe Walker, Lisa White

Introductions & Town Updates

- **Ashfield/Dole, White:** Town meeting was well attended, and a noise ordinance was passed.
- **Buckland/Lanza-Weil:** The BOH is working on procedures to identify vulnerable people who may need assistance in an emergency.
- **Charlemont/Telling:** The BOH is meeting in executive session next week to discuss potential foreclosure of the Charlemont Inn. The BOH passed body art regulations.
- **Conway/Choate:** An effort to launch a Village-to-Village network with neighboring towns has stalled for lack of volunteers. The BOH and Council on Aging are considering possible expenditures of Mass-In-Motion funds.
- **Gill/Blomstedt:** the BOH is working on body art regulations.
- **Heath/Gruen:** The BOH has only 2 of 5 positions filled, so lacks a quorum.
- **Leyden/Kuzdeba:** A noise ordinance may be needed, excessive idling of trucks is problematic, and there has been un-permitted camping at the pavilion.
- **Northfield/Boudreau:** The Town is celebrating its 350th anniversary. Plans to build an emergency services complex will not move forward, as a vote at town meeting did not achieve the required 2/3 majority.
- **Shelburne/Vohr:** The BOH will discuss regulations regarding body art, tobacco, and cannabis at a June meeting, and continues to seek a third member.

Approve Meeting Minutes

With a motion by Telling seconded by Vohr, the minutes of the April 27, 2023 meeting were approved unanimously, with one abstention (Dole).

Agenda Items

- **Next Steps on the PHE Grant Work Plan and Capacity Assessment**

Walker summarized the state's program that collected and assessed data throughout the PHE region this past year, as well as their assessment of our capacity (including shortcomings in staffing, procedures, etc.) to serve the local need. While the DPH required a responsive Work Plan identifying five goals, ours includes a more robust itemization of planned improvements. **Dole motioned to adopt the Work Plan as presented, Gruen seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.**

- **Public Health Nursing Report / Spring Tick community ed. events at Transfer Stations, Libraries, etc.**

Ryan and others involved with Age-Friendly Franklin County & North Quabbin are planning an resource fair and community conversation for June 22 at GCC. Several CPHS towns participate in the Mass In Motion program, which is providing them with support to consider simple age- and dementia- friendly initiatives. Ryan anticipates offering Medicare counseling to towns upon June completion of SHINE program. Ryan, White and O'Reilly summarized surveillance efforts, recent cases, and procedures regarding communicable diseases, food-borne illness, and arbovirus, respectively. Crochier reminded members that the work of TickReport.com is focused ore at the epidemiological level more than the individual level. Further, he reminded members that a town's CPHS membership provides a lower price per test (\$15 vs. \$50 per test, paid by the resident), but that each town must have a line item to pay for its portion of the cost (less than \$35 per test) in its budget. Choate indicated that TickEncounter.com is another resource for individuals in all towns. O'Reilly will soon be scheduling tick-prevention events (where she will spray permethrin on shoes) in several towns. White referenced the latest CDC guidelines on COVID-19 vaccinations, and continuing work to immunize homebound residents.

- **Health Agents Report**

Crochier reported briefly on another busy spring season of septic-related permitting, and of the significant work required of agents and nurses to review the sites, policies and procedures of the many recreational camps for children seeking to operate within the district in the coming weeks and months. There was some discussion of new tobacco regulations prohibiting the sale of non-menthol products that are similarly flavored, and of plans to develop CBD regulations (as noted in the Work Plan). Schellenberg recently passed a soil-evaluator exam, and is pursuing lead-evaluator certification. A hiring committee will soon be formed to review resumes and interview Health Inspector candidates.

Crochier led a 3-in-1 Food Safety Class in Shelburne in May; all students passed, he said. Also, he mentioned the strong administrative launch and program planning of the FRCOG's Franklin-Hampshire Public Health Field Training Hub. Dupras has developed and led three successful workshops sponsored by the WMPHA while awaiting FTH curriculum from DPH.

- **Updated Inter-Municipal Agreement for CPHS members**

Many towns' agreements need renewal. CPHS will remind boards of health to put this on the BOH/BOS agendas. The only significant update is that towns are now required to bring counsel to Housing Court.

On a motion by Gruen, seconded by Lanza-Weil and approved unanimously by roll call, the meeting adjourned at 6:53 PM.

Documents Viewed or Referenced:

- Agenda
- Draft minutes of April 27, 2023 meeting